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- b) creating a circular intracorneal channel originating at said incision;
- c) widening said circular intracorneal channel to create a widened channel; and
- d) introducing an intracorneal implant into said widened channel through said incision.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step b)] creating a circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a dissector blade through said incision and rotating the dissector blade through a circular path to form said circular intracorneal channel.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step b)] creating a circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a clockwise dissector blade through said incision and rotating the clockwise dissector blade clockwise to form a clockwise channel and inserting a counterclockwise dissector blade through said incision and rotating the counterclockwise dissector blade counterclockwise to form a counterclockwise channel.

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6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the channel-widening dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a clockwise channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the clockwise channel-widening dissector blade clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a counterclockwise channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the counterclockwise channel-widening dissector blade counterclockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel.

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8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade ~~having a side leg~~ through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel into an intracorneal pocket.

Sub C1

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said implant has a central [aperture] aperture.

B3

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a counterclockwise pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the counterclockwise pocket-forming dissector blade counterclockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel, thereby forming an intracorneal pocket.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises [the substeps of] inserting a channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the channel-widening dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a pocket-forming dissector blade having a longer side leg through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel into an intracorneal pocket.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step c)] widening said circular intracorneal channel comprises inserting a dissector blade through said incision and dissecting a region of said cornea bounded by said circular intracorneal channel to create an intracorneal pocket.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step d)] introducing the implant into said channel comprises positioning said intracorneal implant within said intracorneal cavity at a location remote from said incision.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step d)] introducing the implant into said channel comprises introducing said intracorneal implant through said incision in a folded condition.

b4

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising [the step of]
e) unfolding said intracorneal implant within said intracorneal cavity.

b4

20. (Amended) A method of preparing an intracorneal pocket comprising [the steps of]:
a) cutting a small incision in the anterior surface of the cornea of an eye;
b) creating a circular intracorneal channel originating at said incision;
c) widening said circular intracorneal channel to create a widened channel; and
d) dissecting radially inward from said widened channel until said pocket is formed.

b5

21. (Amended) A method of inserting an intracorneal continuous ring implant in the cornea of an eye comprising [the steps of]:
a) creating a small incision in said cornea;
b) forming an open pocket within said cornea through said incision; and
c) inserting a continuous ring implant into said open pocket through said incision, said continuous ring implant being inserted in a stretched state.

b6

23. (Amended) The method of claim [21] 24, wherein said continuous ring implant is folded prior to insertion.